

STATEMENT-I

The following major relaxations in Exchange Control Regulations have been announced by RBI since 1st January, 1997.

1. Solicitor's fees/average adjustor's fees.

The existing ceiling of remittances upto US\$ 10,000 towards Solicitor's fees/average Adjustor's fee etc. by Indian Shipping Companies has been removed. Authorised Dealers have been permitted to allow such remittances on actual basis i.e. without any monetary limit.

2. Maintenance/annual service charges for imported machinery/software.

Authorised dealers have been delegated powers to allow such remittances on the basis of contracts entered into by Indian companies with overseas companies.

3. Establishment of overseas offices by exporters.

The existing ceiling of foreign exchange release of US\$ 25,000 or its equivalent towards initial expenses for opening of non-trading offices abroad and upto US\$ 10,000 or its equivalent for posting representatives abroad by Indian firms/companies has been removed. Authorised Dealers have been permitted to release foreign exchange for the initial expenses for the purpose upto the actual expenses to be incurred by the applicant firm/company.

4. Retainer's fees payable by Indian companies to the overseas companies/firms.

Authorised dealers have been permitted to allow Indian companies/firms to remit the actual amount of retainer fees payable to their overseas agents who will render services for promotion of exports provided the applicant company/firm does not have a non-trading/trading/trading office or representative posted at that centre.

5. Appointment/posting of correspondents/representatives by newspapers/news agencies/periodicals.

Authorised dealers have been permitted to allow remittance of actual monthly maintenance expenses incurred/to be incurred by the correspondent/representative posted abroad by the Indian newspapers/news agencies/periodicals as per the terms and conditions of their appointment irrespective of the country of posting and nature of appointment.

6. Electronic data base costs.

The existing limit of US\$ 10,000 for release of exchange by ADs has been removed. ADs have been permitted to allow the actual charges incurred by Indian companies towards data base costs, computer connect/time charges, software charges, hit charges, etc.

7. Advertisements in print media abroad.

Authorised dealers have been permitted to allow remittances of the actual cost of advertisements in print media abroad such as overseas newspapers/periodicals by firms/

companies/organisations as well as banks/financial institutions in India.

STATEMENT-II

The details of the regulations liberalised by RBI in regard to payments for feasibility studies, legal services, postal imports and purchase of designs and drawings.

1. Feasibility/pre-feasibility studies for projects in India.

Authorised dealers have been delegated powers to allow remittances towards feasibility/pre-feasibility studies for project in India on the basis of contract entered into by Indian companies with overseas companies.

2. Legal services.

The monetary limit of US\$ 10,000 or its equivalent towards expenses incurred on legal services relating to import transactions has been removed. Authorised dealers have been permitted to allow remittances of actual expenses incurred/to be incurred on legal services relating to import transactions.

3. Postal imports.

The existing monetary limit of US\$ 5,000 or its equivalent for postal imports has been removed. Authorised dealers have been permitted to allow remittances of the actual cost of the goods imported through post parcel irrespective of the amount involved.

4. Import of designs and drawings.

Authorised dealers were permitted to allow remittances towards import of designs and drawings upto Rs. 25 Lakhs or its equivalent. They have now been permitted to allow remittances towards the actual cost of designs and drawings imported by their importer clients.

[Translation]

Pending Cases in District and Session Courts of U.P.

3277. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of different nature lying pending with various district courts of Uttar Pradesh and Allahabad High Court till 15th February, 1997;

(b) whether the cases are lying pending with the above courts in a large number; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for speedy disposal of the civil cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) As per the available information, as on 30.4.1996, 8,41,085 and 31,12,460 cases were pending in Allahabad High Court and Subordinate Courts in the

State of Uttar Pradesh respectively.

(c) In a continuing endeavour for making justice prompt and affordable, Government intends further to simplify judicial procedures, increase the number of courts and judicial posts, strengthen the infrastructure for administering justice by providing additional funds for construction of court buildings and residential facilities, and adopt Lok Adalats, Nyaya Panchayats and other alternative and locally appropriate methods of dispute resolution.

[English]

Outstanding Income Tax

3278. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of Income Tax pending realisation for more than three years and as at present;
- (b) the amount of the above tax written off during the last three years alongwith the grounds therefor; and
- (c) the details of that income Tax payers in whose favours outstanding tax exceeding Rupees one lakh was written off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi

3279. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has modern gadgets installed such as computer, telex, teleprinting, etc. which are in Roman Script and these are being converted into bilingual;

(b) if so, the manner in which these bilingual gadgets likely to be put into use by the Ministry;

(c) the manner in which the use of Hindi likely to be promoted;

(d) whether the Ministry has given exemption for use of Hindi to their offices located in Region 'A' where work has to be done cent per cent in Hindi; and

(e) if so, the reasons for giving such an exemption?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Most of the equipments such as computers, electronic typewriter etc. in use in the Ministry are bilingual. Some old equipments in Roman Script are also being converted into bilingual equipments.

(b) Necessary training is provided to concerned staff. This will help in Presenting documents bilingually like Cabinet Note, Reports etc.

(c) The use of modern gadgets will improve the quality and standard of bilingual documents and facilitate use of Hindi in the official work of the Ministry.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Pending Cases of Income Tax

3280. SHRI ANNA SAHIB M. K. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the position of references made by the Income Tax Department pending before the High Courts for hearing, High Court-wise for the last three years;

(b) the details of the estimated revenue involved;

(c) the details of steps taken/proposed for clearance of these pending cases and results thereof for the last three years;

(d) whether the position of pending cases has been reviewed recently and important decisions taken to deal with the problem of growing pendency of reference to the High Courts; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The High Court-wise information regarding the references made by the Income-Tax Department, and which are pending for the last three years is not maintained.

Consolidated information on number of cases which are filed by the Department before High Courts and are pending at the end of 31st March for the last three years are as under:-

Year	Number
31.03.94	42603
31.03.95	39666
31.03.96	41918

(b) The details of estimated revenue are not maintained.

(c) The Department has taken up the matter with Hon'ble Delhi High Court for bunching of common issues in all the appeals/references for which an exclusive Joint Registrar who is heading Judicial Management and Legal Research Cell in the Delhi High Court is functioning. The Department has also provided requisite assistance to the Joint Registrar in the form of manpower. As a result 404 cases of Income Tax References have been bunched, listed and decided. 11 petitions under section 256(2) (ITCs) have been bunched, listed and decided. Similarly, 21 petitions under section 27(3) of the Wealth Tax Act have been